Govt. Pr. 27—10-3-50—21,000.

(195 ..) Department.

.. SERIES.

G.O. No. 677

Dated 5th March 1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

Public Health - Prevention of adulteration of food - Bhore Committee's Recommendations - Papers - Recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Education and Public Health Department
(Abstract)

Memorandum No.61672-Spl/46-3, dated 21st November 1946

Sub: Prevention of Food Adultration

The Surgeon-General's attention is invited to the suggestions of the Health Survey and Development Committee for the creation of a provincial cadre of analysts and the establishment of food laboratories in association with the Central and Regional Bacteriological laboratories. The Surgeon-General is requested to offer his remarks on these suggestions and to state whether in addition to the Government Analyst and his assistants and the laboratory maintained at Government expense at the King Institute, Guindy, it will not be useful to have a larger and more decentralised - staff of analysts, linked up with the regional laboratories proposed to be set up under P.W.R. Scheme No.104. Such an arrangement may be advantageous in enabling local authorities to utilise the services of analysts working in the regional laboratories, after formally appointing them as their own Analysts under Section 4 of the M.P.A. Act for work pertaining to food analysis.

(Sd.) ** **
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To the Surgeon-General

No.I.No.76442-2M(I). Office of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, Madras 6, dated 15th Jan. 19

From

Major-General J.P. Huban, C.S.I., C.B.E., K.H.S., I.M.S.
Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras,
Madras

To

The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department, Madras

Sub: Prevention of Food Adulteration
Ref: Government Memorandum No.61672-Spl/46-3,
dated 21-11-1946.

I am in entire agreement with the suggestions containe in the Government Memorandum under reference. In 1943, the Committee appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Health, Government of India, to investigate the question of food adulteration, considered it essential to have in addition to a Central Laboratory, a reasonable number of regional laboratories in the Presidency. Later the Health Survey and Development Committee also endorsed this view. In submitting proposals for the establishment of Regional Laboratories, foo analysis was included as one of the functions to be performed therein and necessary accommodation has also been provided for housing the Regional Analysts' Departments.

2. The facilities at present available in the King Institute are not adequate for carrying out the work satisfactorily. Though the Act has been in force for 15 years, the adulteration of food-stuffs continues to be at a very high level and experience has shown that unless more samples are taken and the Act extended to the whole Presidency, there would be little improvement in that direction. The laboratory at the King Institute, Guindy is working to its ful capacity and is unable to undertake any further work. For this reason, the Government have deferred further extensions of the Act, pending the establishment of Regional Laboratorie It is very desirable to open immediately two branch laboratories at Vizagapatam and Madura in the first instance, each potentially capable of dealing with 10,000 samples per year. In the scheme of expansion, the Government Analyst's

laboratory would not only conduct analysis of foods for certain adjacent Local Bodies, but would also act as referee for other laboratories and conduct original investigations as regards the regional and season variation of food articles for which much work still remains to be done.

3. The formation of Regional Laboratories and the expansion of the activities of the King Institute, Guindy contemplated under the Post-War Scheme, will require an increasing number of suitably qualified and trained personnel with ability and experience to man them; and the shortage of such trained personnel will be the limiting stages. It is therefore essential that the required personnel should be trained sufficiently in advance before they are called upon to undertake specialised work in the King Institute, Guindy and in the Regional Laboratories. Proposals in regard to this matter were called for in paragraph 5 of Government Memorandum No.43793-D2/45-2 P.H., dated 19th November 1945. All the junior young Medical Officers at present available in the Department are temporary hands and the Government have stated in their Memorandum quoted above that even if some of them are trained they cannot be retained till war-returned persons are fully provided for. In view of this stipulation, it has not been found possible to submit concrete proposals for the training of the required personnel, pending decision on the question of absorption of war service personnel. In this connection I enclose for the information of Government a copy of letter Rc.No.26264/45-46, dated 1st May 1946 received from the Director, King Institute, Guindy, on this subject. The need for trained personnel has been stressed again in paragraph 2 of my letter No.61241-32 P.W. dated 18th November 1946 and adequate reasons have been furnished as to why the proposal relating to the training of personnel should go ahead during during the first quinquennium of the Post-War period.
1: factor in the rate of progress and expansion in early

4. In this connection, it may be pointed out that though the laboratories would be maintained at Govt. expense, the cost of upkeep etc. would be as it is now, met by the contribution from the Local Bodies. The Government derive additional revenue from the fines imposed in detected cases.

It is therefore requested that early orders sanctioning the establishment of the Regional Laboratories and expansion of the King Institute, Guindy and the training of personnel may kindly be issued.

Your obedient Servant,
SD. ** **
for Surgeon-General with
the Govt. of Madras.

Copy of letter Rc.No.26264/46-46 dated 1-5-46 from the Director, King Institute, Guindy, to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, Madras.

Ref: Your letter No.61241-16 P.W., dated 9th April 1946
Sub: King Institute, Guindy - Development under post-war Schemes No.104 - Note on the training of personnel.

In your letter No.61241-2-P.W., dated the 22nd November 1945, paragraph 3, it was stated that detailed proposals for the training of personnel from among qualified persons who might be available from those returning from the Army and from among the existing temporary staff may be submitted urgently. However, in paragraph 5 of the Government Memorandum (communicated with your letter No.61241-2-P.W. dated 22-11-1945) it is stated that even if some of the existing temporary persons have to be trained, they cannot be retained on a permanent basis till war returned persons are freely provided for. In view of the

above stipulation, I regret it will not be advisable to submit any names or scheme for the training of the Institute staff at present. In this connection, I have to mention that the Institute staff can be divided into two categories, (a) the Medical staff, and (b) the Non-Medical scientific staff. Regarding the medical staff, all the Assistant Surgeons are working in the Institute in a temporary capacity. Most of these vacancies will be filled in the near future from war returned personnel. Even so, they will be appointed in a temporary capacity and will not be made permanent unless and until all the war service returned men have been released and have been considered. In view of this, I feel hesitant to submit any detailed scheme of training, not knowing who will be posted to the Institute for duty, and whether they would be available on a permanent basis. I suggest, therefore, that the matter may be left over pending the selection of war-service personnel for such appointments. The same remarks apply to the case of non-medical scientific staff also.

Whilst therefore, there will be the definite need in the future to give advanced training in different branches of science connected with the Institute's activities, in view of what has been stated above, no proposals could be submitted for training immediately. When the war service personnel is appointed in the Institute, their suitability will be assessed, and after they have gained experience in the working of the Institute, names of suitable personnel can be suggested for further training after noting their special aptitudes in the matter.

(True copies)

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

aj/25.6

E. & P.H. Deptt. (Spl.)

61672
15-10-46

NUTRITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Prevention of Food Adulteration.

The Health Survey and Development Committee has endorsed the following recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Health:-

(i) The Government of India should appoint a standing Central Committee for Food Standards. Its functions would include (a) The preparation of instructions for analysis (b) Laying down analytical technique for the purpose of ensuring uniformity in food analysis throughout the country. In the Committee's opinion the Committee which has been appointed by the Government of India already, should be continued as a permanent organization.

(ii) The creation of a provincial cadre of analysts and the establishment of food laboratories in association with the Central and Regional Bacteriological Laboratories is suggested.

(iii) The Provincial Director of Public Health and local Health Officers should be given powers in regard to this matter and as has been done in this province.

(iv) Attention is drawn to the desirability of deterrent punishments in respect of offences under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and in the case of repeated offences provision should be made for the award of imprisonment.

(v) Instead of legislating only for food adulteration it is desirable to enact on a wider basis so as to bring together all the existing food legislation at present scattered in various Acts. The existing legislation should be modernised and the law relating to food standardised under an act of the Central Legislature.

(vi) Administrative action in respect of certain essential food stuffs should be developed through the promotion of co-operative effort for increasing production and for reducing the costs of distribution to the public.

2. The Secretary's comment on these suggestions is "May see whether anything beyond our existing set-up is called for".

As far as recommendations (i) and (iii) are concerned no special action is called for on the part of this Government.

As regards recommendation (ii) it may be stated that in this province there is a Government Analyst in King Institute Guindy who is in charge of a Food Laboratory; and the expenditure on account of the pay of the Analyst and the laboratory is incurred from the Provincial Funds. The Govt. Anylist in Guindy is assisted by two Senior Assistants and nine Junior Assistants who are also paid from Provincial Funds. However, local authorities in whose areas the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act,1918 is in force have not so far been able to maintain a staff of analysts and food laboratories of their own owning evidently to their unsatisfactory finances. Until such time as those authorities find sufficient funds to employ their own analysts, the practice has been for those bodies to appoint the Government analyst as their own public analyst under Sec. 4 of the M.P.A. Act. The main difficulty has been lack of funds and in view of

is it is doubtful whether it is feasible for Municipal Councils to employ analysts. The case of the Madras City is however an exception as the Corporation has been maintaining a food laboratory and a staff of ~~--~~ analysts of its own. There is perhaps no objection to the Surgeon-General's attention being drawn to recommendation in item (ii) above and to his being asked to state if any measures are necessary or feasible in this regard.

With reference to recommendation (iv)(imposition of deterrent punishments) the provisions of the Prevention of Adulteration Act now in force in this Province lay down imposition of fines only. Please see sections 5,6(A) 8, 14(iii) and 23 of the Act. In the matter of punishments in cases under this Act, instructions have already been issued by the Government in the Home Department impressing upon the magistrates the need for deterrent punishments. The Committee has suggested the award of imprisonment for "repeated offences" against the law. It is seen that the Bill under consideration in Development contains a provision as follows:--

"17 - Whosoever contravenes any of the provisions of this Act after having been previously convicted, whether under the same or any other provision of this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both".

It may be presumed that this provision will be sufficient. The attention of Development may however be invited to the Committee's suggestion on this point.

In regard to recommendation (v), the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act of 1918 restricts the application of its provisions to the prevention of adulteration of food in the interests of public health. The provisions of the Act will not therefore apply to the adulteration of food articles with innocous substances which may not be dangerous to public health. In view of this and as it is considered necessary to have comprehensive legislation dealing with the adulteration of Commodities including fertilizers, it has been decided (in the connected file in Development) that provincial legislation should be undertaken on the subject and that there is no need for Central Legislation. It is understood that the Govt. of India have also been apprised of this view of the Provincial Government. A Bill has accordingly been drafted and published and objections and suggestions have been received in respect of its provisions. The further stages of the legislation are under consideration in the Development Department.

Recommendation (vi) is for consideration in Development.

p.3 Development may see for remarks, if any.

19-10-46

** **

Development Department.

The ~~fact~~ is, I think, that there ~~is not to~~ be a larger and more decentralized staff of analysts linked up with the required laboratories proposed under the Medical Post-War plan and they may work conveniently ..... as under A above. S-G may be consulted.

** **

To A.S.

Item (vi) on p.1 above: No special remarks are called for. The case may be returned to E.P.H. through Food Department

** **

A.D.S.

Food (G) Deptt.

To A.S.

The notes of E.P.H. and Development at pp.1-4 above may

be perused and the file returned to E.P.H.

N.O. should see first and note

**

To A.

With reference to Secy.'s orders, the file has been seen by N.O. For orders whether it will be passed to E.P.H. U.O.

E & P.H. (Spl.)

The recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Health endorsed by the Health Survey and Development Committee for the prevention of food adulteration have been examined in consultation with the Devpt. Department. It ~~is~~ will be seen from the notes on pp.1-4 ante that no special action is called for on the part of this Govt. on recommendations (i) and (iii) to (vi) specified on p.1 ante. On recommendation (ii) consultation with the S-G. has been proposed - vide 'X' on p.2 ante.

A draft Memo. to the S-G. is submitted.

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20-11-46

Issued as Memo.No.61672-Spl/46-3, d/21-11-46
From the S-G. Ref.No.76442-2- M(1), d/15-1-47

Attention is invited to the Secy.'s note in the margin on p.2 ante and the Memo. on pp.1-2 c.f. in pursuance of that note. The Surgeon-General agrees with the suggestions in the Memo. In this connection he presses for early orders on his proposals for the establishment of Regional laboratories, expansion of the King Institute, laboratories and the training of personnel. The file dealing with these proposals is separately under consideration and has been sent to Public (B & D), R.W.D and Fin. with a draft note to the Standing Finance Committee of the Cabinet. Its return may be awaited till 15-2-47. In the meantime Dev. may be requested to state the present stage of the Bill for the prevention of food adulteration.

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27-1-47.

Dev. Dept. (D. II)

To U.S.

This file has been sent to this Dept. with referenc to Z. on p.5 above.

The draft bill referred to at 'Z' overleaf has been sent to the legal Dept. After its return from the legal Dept. it should be sent to S.G.P. for printing clean copies of the bill and orders should be taken in full circulation whether it is necessary to undertake legislation for the purpose. After that, steps will be taken, if so ordered, to legislate in the matter. With this information, the case may be returned to E & P.H.

** **

31-1-47.

E & P.H. Dept.

It is seen that the Bill for the prevention of Food adulteration has not yet been passed into law. As regards the proposals for the establishment of Regional laboratories, expansion of the King Institute laboratories and the training of personnel, it is proposed to place

the matter before the Development Board to enable the Board to consider the matter along with the revision of the whole Five-Year Plan. With a draft note to the Board, the file has accordingly been sent to Finance and Public (P &-D) on 6-2-47. The return of the file may be awaited till 1-3-1947.

** **
7-2-47

The file relating to the expansion of the King Institute laboratories has not yet been received back from Finance and Public (P & D). This may further lie over till 1-4-1947.

** **
4-3-47

The case relates to the Bhore Committee suggestion regarding ~~xxxxxx~~ prevention of adulteration of food stuffs.

In view of the comprehensive legislation on this subject already under consideration in Development and referred to in the fore-going pages, no action seems necessary on this file.

The papers may be

Order 677-P.H. dated 5th March 1948
Ms.
Recorded.

* **
4-3-1948

Public health - Prevention of adulteration of food - Bhore Committee. Recommendations - Papers Recorded.

(True copy)

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

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